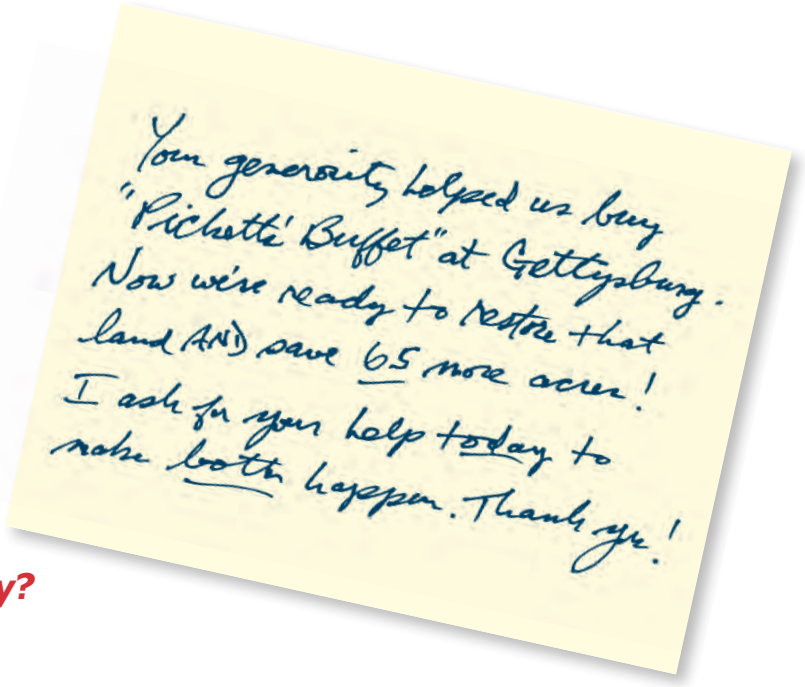
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST ★ ★ ★



After decades of painstaking preservation work, we have an opportunity to save nearly 65 additional acres in the heart of Gettysburg AND finally restore a prominent piece of the battlefield!

Will you help make this dream a reality?

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

As this year heads to a close, I ask for one more moment of your time to tell you about two remarkable opportunities — years in the making — at two of the most iconic parts of America's most iconic battlefield — Pickett's Charge and Culp's Hill, at Gettysburg.

I'll be honest with you — I don't know which one to start with — after all, it's not every day that we have an opportunity to acquire 65 acres at Gettysburg along the Baltimore Pike!

But let's begin with Pickett's Charge: When I first visited Gettysburg more than 30 years ago (and before I began my career in battlefield preservation), I went there to walk in the footsteps of my great-great-grandfather who, as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 57th Virginia Regiment, participated in what would become known to history as either "Pickett's Charge" or the "Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble Assault."



The view from the Pickett's Buffet site can be restored and dramatically improved. © American Battlefield Trust

At 3:15 p.m. on an oppressively hot July afternoon, I stepped out from the woods near the modern-day Virginia monument, heading for the distant Copse of Trees, just as my ancestor did in 1863.

Nearing the Emmitsburg Road, imagining what that horrific scene must have looked like to more than 12,000 Confederates, their comrades dropping left and right, as they approached the bristling Union defenses behind the low stone wall, I scanned the landscape all around me.

I was chagrined to see that modern development had already encroached onto the edge of the Pickett's Charge field. But, possibly feeling my ancestor's hand at my back, I continued my march across that hallowed field, and over the stone wall. Perhaps you have walked that same path.

Turning to look back over the mile of hallowed ground I had just traversed, I was again distracted by the development on the northern edge of the battlefield. I walked back down to the road and saw a sign for a restaurant called "General Pickett's Buffet."

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Judging by the number of cars and buses in the parking lot, I could see it was a popular place, but I must admit to you: I wished it was somewhere else in Gettysburg, rather than right on the battlefield.

I clearly remember thinking, *"Wouldn't it be great if, someday, someone could somehow buy this place, and restore this land to the way it looked on the day of the battle?"*

Well, my friend, that someday … is today. And that someone … is you and me!

Through a remarkable chain of events over many years, the American Battlefield Trust was able, with your help and generosity, to purchase the General Pickett's Buffet property at Gettysburg! Now, after years of work to secure the required permits and permissions, we are finally able to remove that building and restore this crucial part of the battlefield!

I can't tell you how good it feels to be able to write those words!

When the long-time restaurant owner decided to relocate to a new, larger facility south of the main battlefield, he approached the Trust with the hope that the land could be purchased for preservation. And your generosity allowed us to pay the $1.5 million purchase price to save the property!



The old General Pickett's Buffet restaurant building and the parking lot will be removed and walking trails and interpretive signage installed as part of our plans to restore the site for battlefield preservation. © American Battlefield Trust

If we had not bought the land with the intention of restoring it, who knows what might have happened to it. At the very least, current and future generations might never have had the chance to see and understand Pickett's Charge from a new perspective.

While this tract of land is small, it has witnessed an unbelievable amount of history.

On the First Day of the battle, Union cavalry would have galloped past this very land, followed by Union infantry moving at the double-quick, all rushing towards the sound of the guns, only to be driven back on the same roads later that day to the relative safety of Cemetery Ridge, where they made their stand.

On the Second Day, from this tract, you would have been able to watch as Confederates swept across the farm fields and Emmitsburg Road to attack Gen. Daniel Sickles' Union III Corps in the Peach Orchard and the Wheatfield. You could have seen the distant fighting for Little Round Top. Soldiers skirmished on this land, looking for advantages in what was to come.

Then, from this land, on the fateful Third Day, you would have been alongside Union soldiers with a front-row seat to one of the largest and most significant charges of the entire Civil War.

You know the rest. By the end of those three days, 51,000 soldiers would either lie dead on the battlefield, be wounded (some lightly, many more grievously), or be captured or go missing, perhaps never to be seen again.

This land also witnessed in 1917 the new-fangled weapons of war called "tanks" rumble across the battlefield, under the watchful eye of a young officer named Dwight Eisenhower, who would fall in love with the battlefield and town of Gettysburg, eventually making it his home.

And when I was recently in Gettysburg, I saw a group of young men and women, binders in hand, obviously part of a military training program, studying that ground and still absorbing its lessons 163 years after the battle.

In short, from every point on the compass, this small parcel of ground has been a unique witness-place of American history. And today, you and I have the chance to reclaim it, restore it, and preserve its stories forever for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I refer you to the attached illustration, which shows the Trust's plan to create a fully accessible park with walking trails and interpretation, replacing the building and parking lot that long hid the history beneath.

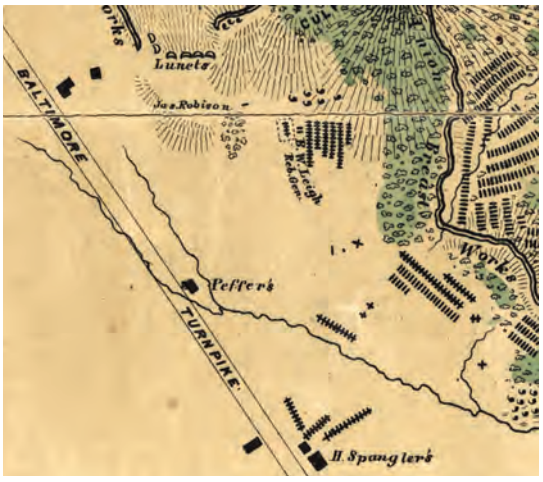
Even as thrilled as I am about the restoration of the General Pickett's Buffet site, I must tell you that the chance to save nearly 65 acres along the historic Baltimore Pike, near Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill, is every bit as exciting.

Take a look at the enclosed battlefield maps, and you'll see why.

In July 1863, this road was the Union Army's key to survival, its lifeline. Over the course of the battle's three days, at least 25,000 Union soldiers marched along the Baltimore Pike, hurrying toward the fighting. Wagons loaded with ammunition and supplies rattled in the dust. Wounded men were moved, some on stretchers, others in wagons, some heading to the hospital on the very tract we are working to save.

During the fighting, elements of 12 infantry brigades and nine artillery batteries occupied portions of these acres. Union troops traversed these fields on their way to the fighting around Culp's Hill. Artillery batteries took up positions nearby. And during the enormous Confederate bombardment that preceded Pickett's Charge, shells that overshot the Union lines came crashing down on portions of this land.

The neighboring farmhouse was used as a field hospital. Wounded soldiers were brought there from the fighting, spilling into the adjacent fields we are working to preserve. Some survived; some did not. According to a historic burial map prepared after the battle, **fourscore Union soldiers and three Confederate soldiers were interred on the very land we're now working to preserve.** These remains were later moved to National and Confederate Cemeteries.



This section of the S.G. Elliott Burial Map shows many of the grave sites of the 83 soldiers killed, including Benjamin Watkins Leigh. © American Battlefield Trust

This iconic land is adjacent to land owned by the National Park Service, the Gettysburg Foundation, and the Trust, saved by dedicated Trust supporters like you. It's one of the largest areas of land we've had a chance to acquire in Gettysburg in the last decade.

You and I have spent years preserving smaller, individual tracts of land in this area, whenever we could. Sometimes just a few acres, sometimes more. Thanks to your support, we have been able to gradually, doggedly, save land that has now become a more unified battlefield for visitors to explore.

Today, we have the chance to acquire 65 acres — not 0.65 acres, or even 6.5 acres — in one major acquisition effort. That's a huge amount of Gettysburg battlefield land, especially these days, and especially on this part of the battlefield.

So, will you join me in this urgent effort to both restore a crucial part of the battlefield, while also acquiring another enormous number of acres forever?

I must confess there is a great deal involved in making all of this happen. The cost of the Baltimore Pike land is $2.6 million. However, the landowner is very graciously giving us three years to fully pay for the land. Completing the acquisition will take several years, with additional payments to make each year. So, fair warning, you'll be hearing from me in the years to come on this one.

But right now, we have an agreement in place, and our first important step is to raise the money needed for the initial payment to a landowner who wants to see the land go to a preservation organization.

All told, the down payment for the 65 acres, together with the cost of demolishing and restoring the General Pickett's Buffet site, is $550,000. And the closing date for the property is in *December.* That means I am mounting an all-out charge to raise the funds needed before the end of the year.

Will you consider making your most generous year-end gift to help us achieve this transformational next step for Gettysburg?

I wish we had more time to raise the money, especially given the economic headwinds many of us are facing right now, but we simply don't.

When I call this opportunity unparalleled, I do so with a sense of deep respect that every single hallowed acre you have helped us purchase, protect, and preserve is of vital importance to our nation.

To date, you and your fellow members of the American Battlefield Trust have saved more than *1,374 acres* at Gettysburg. But with each passing year, it becomes harder to fight off well-monied real estate developers.

Also with your help, we have now saved more than 63,000 acres of battlefield land in 25 states at 160 battlefields, land which would have been paved over if we had not stepped in before the developers got there. Now, that's remarkable!

I treasure each acre we've saved, because they each tell an important story about our history, our courage, and our character. And do we ever need to hear, learn, and pass on these stories today! I'm sure you agree.

My friend, the stars have aligned as never before. For General Pickett's Buffet, the time has come to finally restore that part of the battlefield. On the Baltimore Pike, we have a landowner who is going above and beyond to work with us.

If we do not succeed in raising the $550,000 we need in the next few weeks, we will have lost a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

I know times are challenging and budgets are stretched thin, but I ask you to please help in any way you can today with your generous donation, to help take advantage of this unique and fleeting opportunity.

Then, the next time you go to Gettysburg, I hope you will make the effort to walk these tracts, linger for a moment reflecting on all of their history, and then recall that, today, I said "Thank You!" in advance, on behalf of those who hallowed this ground, as well as for those future generations who will get to experience it because of you!



With warmest regards,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. By the way, my great-great-grandfather somehow survived that fateful July 3, or I would not be here! Even if you did not have an ancestor at Gettysburg, you know how important that place, and all of America's battlefields, are to our nation, and I pray that you will send your most generous possible year-end gift today, even going online to make your donation at www.battlefields.org/save65. Thank you!